REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-19 are pending in the subject application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the edge panel folds over to form a peripheral structure, and that the edge panel comprises edge flaps that fold over toward the ribs. Provided below are excerpts and drawings from the present application which support these amendments.

First, paragraph 0034 below discusses an example of peripheral structures formed by edge panels.

[0034] The present invention constructed and used as a pallet eliminates numerous disadvantages associated with the use of conventional permanent pallets. The present pallet comprises relatively inexpensive materials such as paperboard, and is secured together without the need for glue or other adhesives. The present pallet is configured such that it is stabilized by special locking assemblies and peripheral structures (e.g. edge panels). Unlike typical corrugated pallets, the special design and construction of the present pallet alleviates any need for adhesives. This feature makes pos-

Next, FIGs 4 and 5 show the folding up of the edge panel 81 to form the peripheral structure. Also, FIG. 4 shows an example of the edge flap folding over toward rib 302, 304.

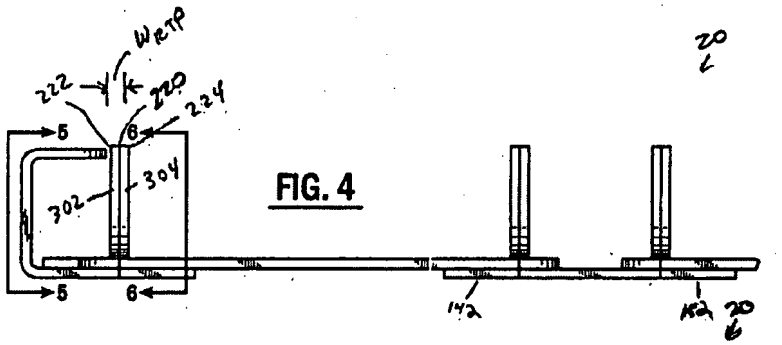


FIG. 4

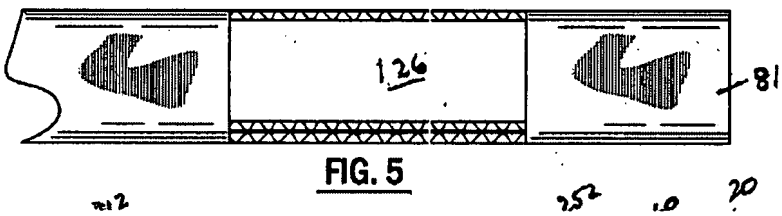


FIG. 5

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the edge panel folds over to form a peripheral structure, and that the edge panel comprises edge flaps that fold over toward the ribs. Also, claim 4 has been amended to recite that the edge flaps of the first frame are secured to the second frame. FIG. 15 and paragraph 0106 support the amendments to claim 4. They discuss one example of a securement of the edge flaps to the opposing frame.

[0106] **FIG. 15** shows a diagram of two frames **97, 98** similar to frames **12, 14** described above. Frame **97** comprises tab locks such as **510, 511, 512**. Preferably, the tab locks are provided proximate to the periphery of frames **97, 98**. In locking together frames **97, 98**, edge flap **516** is folded over, tab locks **510, 511, 512** are pushed through holes **513, 514, 515**, respectively, and locked into place. This is repeated at every edge flap until pallet is fully assembled. Tab locks provide additional strength and stability to the assembled pallet. The edge flap **516** comprises slots such as **520, 521**. These slots slide into slots slide into slots **519, 522**, respectively until the most interior portions **523, 524** abut against most interior portions **525, 526** respectively. Slots **519, 520, 521, 522** allow the edge flap **516** to fully slide into position, which increases structural stability.

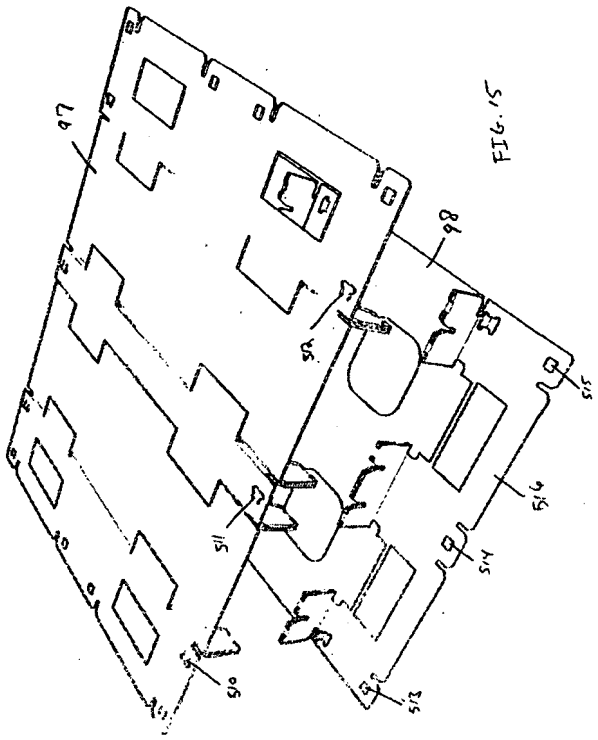


FIG. 15

Claim 18 has been amended to recite that the edge panel folds over to form a peripheral structure, and that the edge panel comprises an edge flap that folds over toward the ribs. Also, claim 18 has been amended to recite that the edge flap of the first frame are secured to the second frame and the edge flap of the second frame are secured to the first frame. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-19 will be before the Examiner for consideration.

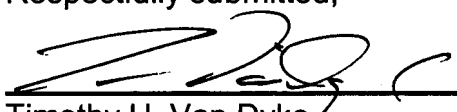
Claims 1-6 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogilvie Jr. et al (6029582, '582 patent). Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 1, 4, and 18 obviate this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that edge panel folds over to form a peripheral structure and that the edge panel comprises an edge flap that folds over toward the ribs. As noted in Applicant's previous response, nowhere does the '582 patent teach an edge panel which defines a jack passage. Further still, the '582 patent does not contemplate an edge panel that is designed to fold up to form a protective wall structure feature to assist in maintaining the peripheral integrity of an assembly. Also, the '582 does not teach or contemplate an edge flap that folds over toward the ribs. With respect to claims 4 and 18, the '582 patent does not teach the securement of edge flaps to opposing frames. In light of the absence of any such features in the '582 patent, as well as the absence of the realization of a need of such features, the '582 patent fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 4, and 18. Further, dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 are not anticipated. In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 USC § 102(b) rejection.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over the '582 patent. Applicant respectfully traverses. As discussed at paragraph 0085 of the present application, use of the slide lock assemblies, such as that described in the '582 patent exhibit problems realized by the inventor. The slide lock tabs become easily damaged and rounded off during assembly due to the forces bearing on the portion of the slide lock that is wider than the opening. The wing tab configuration possesses a surprising superior strength and integrity following assembly. The wing tab configuration is not

damaged because it can be raised during assembly and lowered following assembly of the columns. The problem with the slide lock assembly clearly is not recognized by the '582 patent therefore there could not have been an appreciation or contemplation of a modification to the slide lock assembly. Furthermore, without a recognition of the problem with the slide lock assemblies, the skilled artisan would not have been lead to discover the unexpected superiority of the wing tab configuration. In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this 35 USC § 103(a) is requested.

Applicants believe that all claims are in a condition for allowance, and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this response. In addition, the Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned to arrange a telephonic interview if the Examiner believes that not all grounds for rejection have been addressed and overcome.

Respectfully submitted,



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